



Research of the Month: The RETOPEA project



https://www.open.edu/openlearn/pluginfile.php/3350228/mod_oucontent/oucontent/110491/1562ee14/synej1t5/nc_retopea_2019_vid001_compressed.mp4





RELIGIOUS TOLERATION AND PEACE

- Four year project 2018-22
- Linking past and present
- Partners in Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, North Macedonia, Poland, Spain
- Open University UK lead



The Open
University



HORIZON 2020

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation programme under Grant Agreement no. 770309.



RETOPEA 'Clippings' Collection

<https://retopea.eu/s/en/page/clippings>



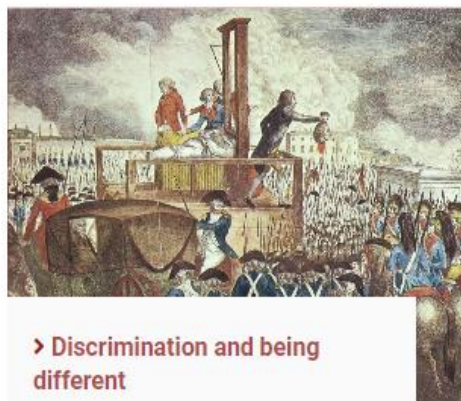
> Gender and Sexuality



> Migration, trade and travel



> Propaganda, stereotyping and communication



> Discrimination and being different



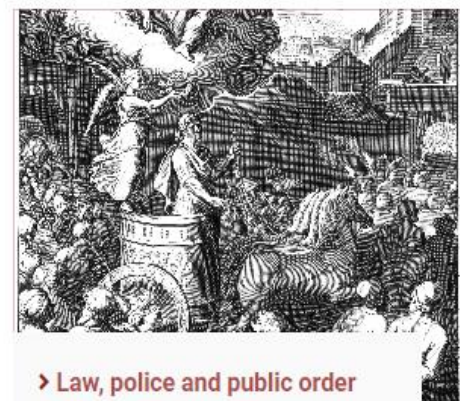
> Ideas about toleration



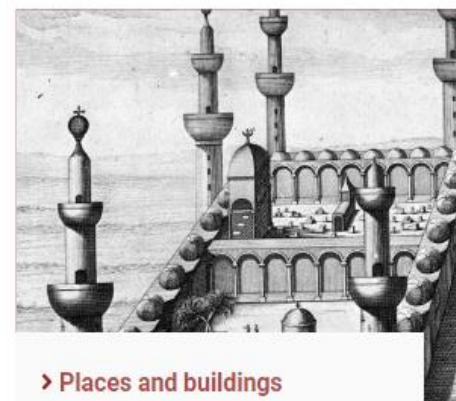
> Peace and conflict resolution



> Memory and heritage



> Law, police and public order



> Places and buildings





 *Original act of the Warsaw Confederation*

This picture shows how a religious peace treaty looked in early modern Europe. Members of the Polish and Lithuanian nobility met at the Sejm, the Polish-Lithuanian parliamentary gathering, in Warsaw on 28 January 1573. They signed the Confederation of Warsaw. The signatories declared that they wanted to keep the peace despite the differences in their religions. This was a very unusual step in this age of religious conflict. The original document shown here gives the whole text of the Confederation. The text is partly in Latin, partly in Polish and written on parchment. It has 206 seals attached. They express the consent of their holders to the Confederation. Only 128 names can be identified (the others are no longer legible). The document represents the tradition of religious toleration and was included in the UNESCO World Documentary Heritage register 'Memory of the World' in 2003.

Context:

In 1573, Poland-Lithuania was one of the largest countries in Europe. Since 1569 Poland and Lithuania were connected in the Union of Lublin. At the top stood the king. But the

Content 

Context 

Questions 

Why do you think are so many seals attached to the document?

Temporal Coverage 

Date 

Spatial Coverage 

Map 

Relation 

Subject 

Is Referenced By 


Audience 

Creator 

Collection 

Confederation of Warsaw 1573



A woman wearing a light-colored hijab and a white face mask is seated at a desk in an office environment. She is holding a piece of paper and appears to be engaged in a video conference. The computer monitor in front of her displays two participants in a video call. The desk is cluttered with various items, including a keyboard, a mouse, and a water bottle. The background shows other computer workstations and office equipment.

RETOPEA 'Docutube' workshop pilots 2020-22

- 2 x London (UK)
- Tampere (Finland)
- Tartu (Estonia)
- Granada (Spain)
- Leuven & 2 x Brussels (Belgium)
- Warsaw (Poland)
- Mainz (Germany)
- Skopje (North Macedonia)





'Docutube' Workshop:

- Engage
- Plan
- Create
- Reflect



Docutubes

[Religious Tolerance in School](https://retopea.eu/s/en/item/14655)
<https://retopea.eu/s/en/item/14655>

<https://retopea.eu/s/en/page/docutubes>



Evaluation

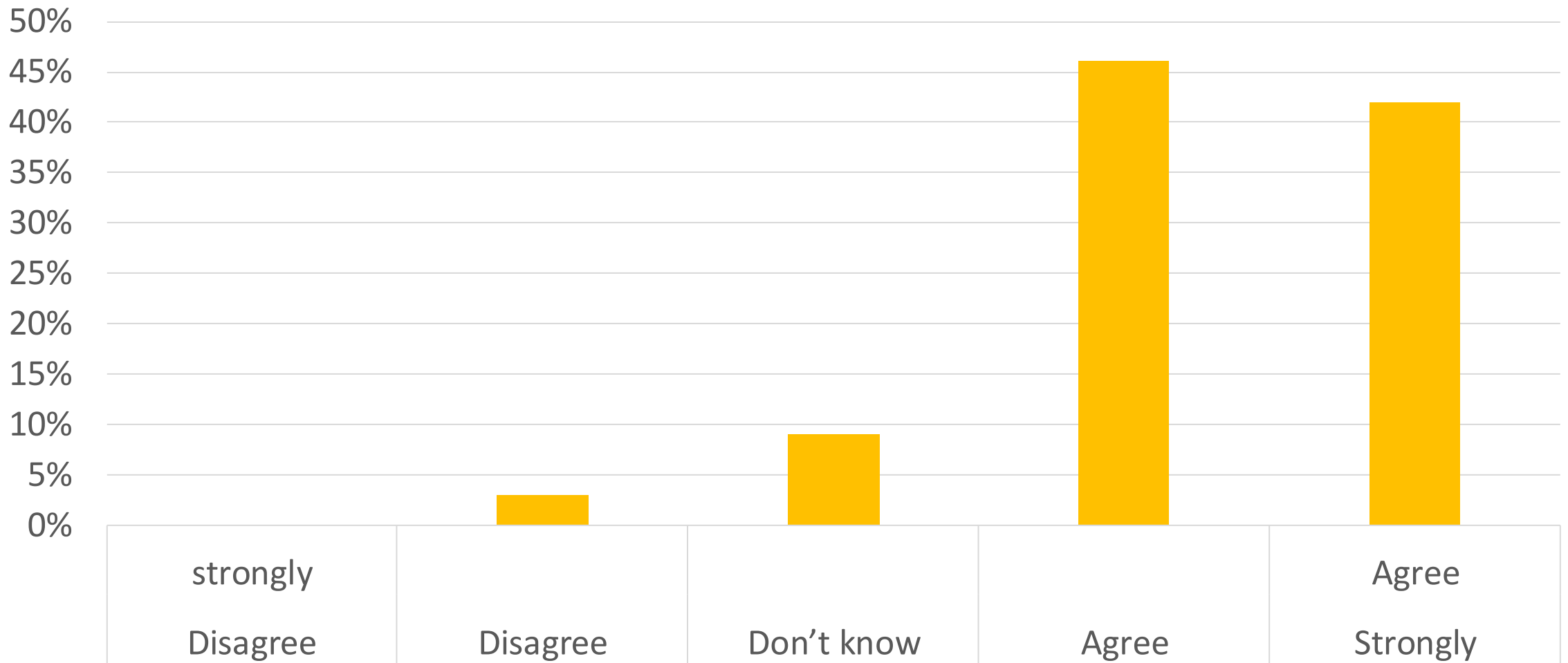
Total of 97 young people (aged 12-18) took part in Docutube pilot workshops in 2020-22

Evaluation through small group interviews as well as teachers' / researchers' observation reports

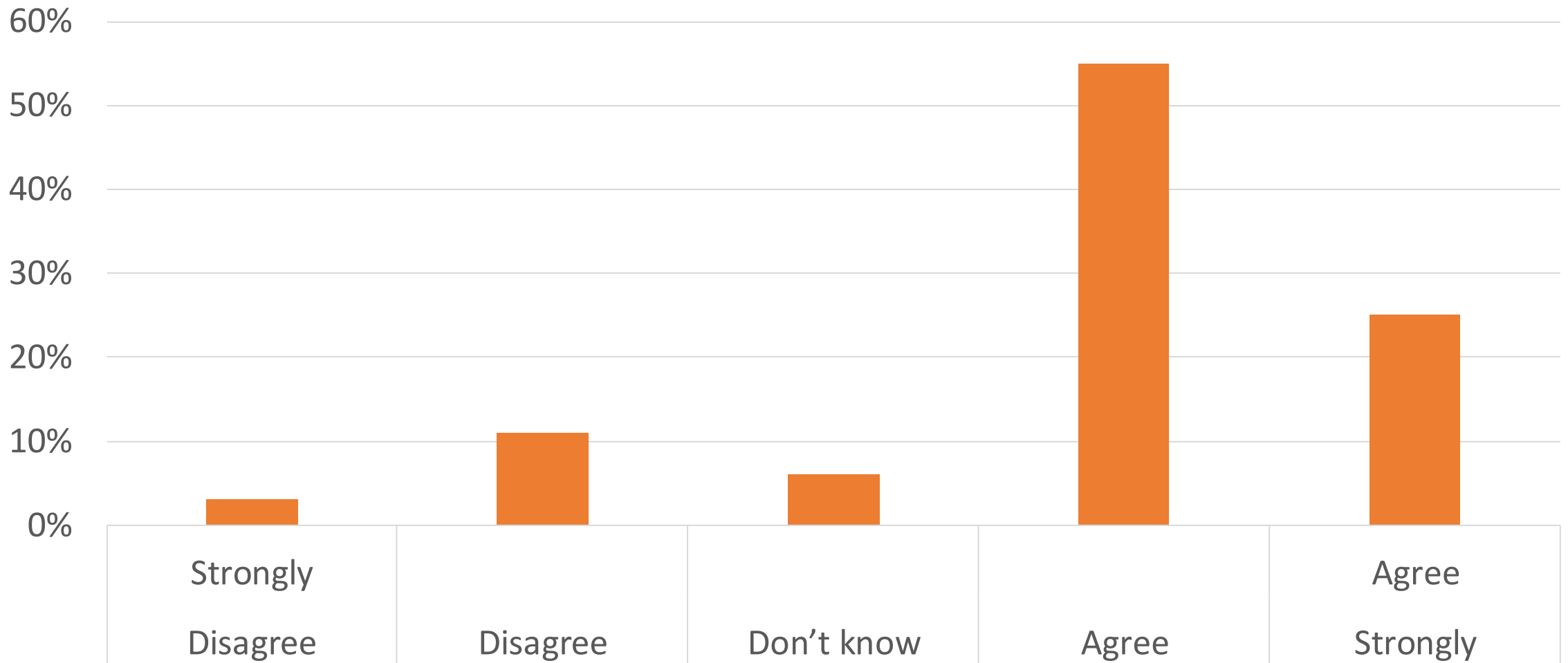
A total of 65 students who took part in Docutube pilot workshops in Tampere, Warsaw, Tartu, Urswick (London), Mainz and Skopje completed anonymous evaluation questionnaires



Questionnaire: 'History can help us understand how to approach religious peace and toleration in society today.'



Questionnaire: 'Making a Docutube film helped me learn about religious peace and toleration'



Open comments

- 'It has made me realize and think about religious peace and how my actions can help keep peace.'
- 'Filming and interviewing allowed me to learn about religious peace and understanding what other people think.'
- 'It was fun to put my views and other peoples view in a way that teach other people.'
- 'I have learnt about may other cultures and beliefs, I have learnt many new things and learnt about how much an impact religion actually has on many people.'
- 'The Retopea project has taught me that in history we have had events of peace between Muslims, Christians and Jews. Furthermore, I learnt that teamwork and collaboration can lead to great work.'
- 'Everything we were required to do was well explained. The topic was interesting and left a lot of creative freedom.'
- 'That it was a very fun activity and a really good experience for us. We got to know and understand different things, different people.'
- 'Jeder sollte mal dran teilnehmen. Neue, gute Methode etwas zu lernen. Jeder kann sich mit einbringen.'
[*Everyone should take part in this. A new, good method to learn something. Everyone can get involved.*]
- 'Es hat mir sehr gut gefallen und das Projekt war eine gute Abwechslung zu unserem normalen Unterricht.'
[*I liked it very much and the project was a good change from our normal lessons.*]



Conclusions:

- Effectiveness of **creative** approach to **learning with history** and **critical thinking about the past and present**
- **Multisensory, 'hands on' approach** can support deep learning
- Value of **respectful, 'open minded approach'** to discussions with young people about religious toleration and peace, facilitation of a '**safe space to speak out**', express their own opinions and share experiences
- **Room for exploration** and creative freedom
- Young people expressed desire to learn more about different religious traditions and religious history in their **local** environment
- **Process** of making docutube is more important than the end result
- Importance of team work, **collaboration**, learning with/from others
- Development of a wide range of **skills** (incl. critical thinking, cultural/ historical/ religious literacy, team working, presenting/ public speaking, filmmaking/ editing skills etc.)



Free course

Young people and religion: creative learning with history



Free statement of participation on completion



Badged Open Course (BOC) for educators

Young people and religion: creative learning with history

Course description

Course content

Course reviews

This free course, *Young people and religion: creative learning with history*, will train teachers and others working with young people on how to engage them in learning about religious diversity past and present through the creative process of making short, creative films (Docutubes). It is based on the RETOPEA (Religious Toleration and Peace) project, which has worked extensively with schools and other organisations in various European countries to develop this unique approach and produce accessible resources. This course will give you the pedagogical tools to engage in a unique approach to develop knowledge and understanding of religious diversity.



Earn this free Open University digital badge if you complete this course! The badge can be displayed, shared and downloaded as a marker of your achievement. The badge is awarded for completing the course and passing the quizzes.

Course learning outcomes

After studying this course, you should be able to:

- demonstrate awareness of the attitudes of young people to matters of religious toleration and peace both in a local context and in wider European perspective
- help young people articulate and reflect on their own ideas and attitudes regarding religion and religious diversity
- find online resources designed to stimulate and inform young people's thinking about religion through increased awareness of its role in history and in present-day politics, media and culture
- confidently lead a group of young people in planning and making short films to put forward their own ideas about religious toleration and peace
- reflect critically with the workshop participants on what everyone has learned from the experience.

[Enter course](#)

BA/BSc (Honours) Open degree

BA (Honours) Arts and Humanities (Religious Studies)

Diploma of Higher Education in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Share this free course



Course rewards

Free statement of participation on completion of these courses.

Earn a free Open University digital badge if you complete this course, to display and share your achievement.

Badged Open Course (BOC) for educators

Young people and religion: creative learning with history

Course description

Course content

Course reviews

SESSION

1

SESSION

2

SESSION

3

SESSION

4

You can start this course right now without signing-up. Click on any of the course content sections below to start at any point in this course.

If you want to be able to track your progress, earn a free Statement of Participation, and access all course quizzes and activities, **sign-up**.

Course content

Introduction and guidance



SESSION
1

Session 1: Engage – exploring religious diversity



SESSION
2

Session 2: Plan – preparing to create your docutube



SESSION
3

Session 3: Create – filming and editing



SESSION
4

Session 4: Reflect – deepening the learning experience



Expand all course content

Badged Open Course (BOC) for educators

Young people and religion: creative learning with history

Future Plans UK

New funding of £26k from Culham St Gabriels Trust for UK-based activity; £23k from Open University for international activity

2023: Workshops in UK, including Bishop Douglass Catholic School (East Finchley, north London) and Rose Castle Foundation Youth Programme.

Discussions with further school and other partners ongoing: offers and recommendations still very welcome

Dissemination/impact event in London and Belfast late 2023/early 2024 – engagement with UK parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly + written policy briefing

Opportunity for additional systematic evaluation without Covid constraints, leading to academic publication



Future Plans: International

Workshops EuroClio – History teachers (Vilnius - April 2023)
EFTRE – Religious Studies teachers (Rome – August 2023)

Planning for workshops in Albania, Jordan, Oman – three contrasting majority Muslim countries

Ongoing development of existing RETOPEA network and contacts



Further Information and Contacts

[RETOPEA home page:](https://retopea.eu/s/start/page/home)

<https://retopea.eu/s/start/page/home>

Open Learn Course: Young people and religion: creative learning with history

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